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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2003

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George Budget Saves Taxpayer Dollars

Restores fairness to library funding

LANSING — Senator Tom George, R-Texas Township, announced today the passage of the budget for the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) by the HAL Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. As chair of the HAL subcommittee alterations made to the budget reflect George's ideas of how to better balance the needs of the department with the needs of the taxpayer.

The Governor had proposed giving special grants to the Detroit (DPL) and Grand Rapids (GRPL) public libraries in addition to the formula funding that they, and all libraries, already receive. By cutting the special grants and reallocating the money to all libraries George was able to reduce overall spending, mitigate proposal cuts to all libraries and report a budget bill that is lower than the Governor recommended. This budget restores equity in funding to all of Michigan's libraries and extends savings to taxpayers.

"My budget wipes out the Governor's unfair special grants to the biggest and already best funded libraries," George said. "Instead it would re-distribute that money to all libraries, including Kalamazoo and Portage."

This is the first budget to be passed out of subcommittee this year.